

Remarks for John's Last Staff Meeting

- All of you are well acquainted with John's aversion to formality, long boring speeches, and testimonials.
- But John, there was no way that we were going to let you get away without some formal comment.
- John's career here has been truly remarkable. Most of you here in this room know it even better than I do.
- John is perhaps the greatest living proof that there is opportunity in the Agency for upward mobility. Anyone who starts at the bottom as a Commo clerk, rises to serve in high positions in all four Directorates and the Intelligence Community Staff, and then becomes the DDCI has come a long way--further, in fact, than any other career officer we have had. (Horatio Alger is indeed alive and well and is here in the room.)
- Perhaps John's early experience with the U-2 program gave him the up and away energy and high vision he has always enjoyed. (There is no truth, however, to the stories circulated by some of the political right in this country that he may have suffered from oxygen deprivation early in his career.)
- Speaking of the right, John has made lots of friends for the Agency. He has earned the respect of such distinguished commentators and participants in the intelligence process as Malcolm Wallop, Angelo Codevilla, Lyndon Larouche, Bill Gertz and that public-spirited lobby which calls itself "Free the Eagle." (With friends like these, maybe it's a good thing that John is retiring.)

- John, you have been a truly remarkable DDCI. All of us value and admire your deep commitment to us and our work and your detailed knowledge of all of our programs and all of our people.
- Perhaps the most steadfast characteristic of John's service here, and the one that I have valued the most, is that he never failed to tell any of us what he thought. (It, of course, goes without saying that what he thought was always colorful and sometimes unprintable.)
- I know you have received other Distinguished Intelligence medals for previous accomplishments. All of us hope and expect that this one will have very special memories and associations for you.